

A NEW SPECIES OF DASYTES FROM CALIFORNIA
(MELYRIDÆ: COLEOPTERA)

BY FRANK E. BLAISDELL, SR.

The following fine new species of *Dasytes* is related to *lineellus* Casey:

***Dasytes irregularis* new species**

Form oblong-subovate, widening slightly posteriorly and a little more than twice as long as wide. Color dull black; legs rufous, metafemora sometimes slightly piceous; basal joints of the antennæ more or less pale.

Pubescence closely recumbent, not coarse, rather short, quite dense, but not entirely hiding the body surface, and flavo-plumbeous in color. On the pronotal disk there is a very indefinite mottling with piceous; on the elytra these dark hairs are arranged in very fine longitudinal lines which are more or less obscure and interrupted. Erect hairs entirely absent. On the pronotum the hairs are a little longer and denser. Lateral pronotal fimbriæ short, even, and curved arcuately backward, pale in color; those of the apical and basal margins more dorsally directed. Lateral elytral fringe short and even. Under surface clothed with finer and slightly longer hairs, which are recumbent and moderately dense.

Head relatively moderately large, about two-thirds as wide as the prothorax, about as long as wide, muzzle moderate in length before the antennæ; surface plane, evenly punctate, punctures moderate in size, separated by a distance equal to one and a half to two times their diameter. Eyes rather large, feebly oval and subhemispherically convex, facets moderately small. Antennæ not stout, somewhat slender, extending to about the basal pronotal angles.

Pronotum about a third wider than long, quite as wide as the elytral base, widest posteriorly; apex arcuato-truncate; sides rather strongly rounded, noticeably convergent anteriorly, margin finely serrulate; base broadly and arcuately lobed between the discal lines, thence feebly sinuate and oblique, broadly rounding into the sides, often briefly and slightly notched at position of the basal angles; apical angles less broadly rounded; disk moderately to rather strongly convex from side to side between the submarginal lines, lateral to which the surface is somewhat impressed, especially posteriorly, less than moderately convex antero-posteriorly; disk in the central area distinctly and rather deeply punctate, punctures moderate in size, separated by a distance equal to their diameter. Submarginal line not deep, nearly entire and very evident from the parting of the pubescence; lateral discal area asperate and reticulately sculptured.

Elytra quite oblong, a little less than twice as long as wide; sides rather straight, slightly divergent posteriorly, becoming rather

broadly arcuate at apex, the apical margin reëtrant at the suture and serrulate; base feebly emarginate, humeri not strongly rounded, noticeably tumid, and defined within by a longitudinal impression; disk very feebly convex on dorsum, becoming arcuately and rather abruptly declivous at the sides in basal half, apically quite gradually so; punctures moderately small, not strongly impressed, becoming finer toward apex, where they are rather more widely separated; surface slightly undulate in the basal area.

Epipleura very narrow behind the metacoxæ and rapidly evanescent; moderately broad at base. Abdomen very finely and evenly punctate, a sixth segment visible in both sexes. Legs relatively slender and of moderate length.

Male. Noticeably less broad than female; fifth ventral segment more broadly truncate. Female. Broader; fifth ventral segment feebly arcuate at apex.

Length (types), 2.9-3.1 mm.; width, 1.2-1.4 mm.

Holotype, male, No. 1645, and *allotype*, female, No. 1646, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected by E. P. Van Duzee, May 20, 1920, at Bryson, California. *Paratypes* taken at Bradley, May 17, and at Pleyto, May 21, 1920, all in Monterey County, California.

Irregularis appears to be a very distinct species. In its color, pubescence and the sublineate markings of the elytra, it shows relationship with *lineellus* Casey; it is more elongate, evidently slightly more robust, and is distinctly a larger species. It cannot be confused with any other, and should follow *lineellus* Casey in our lists.

LUCERIA TRANQUILLA GROTE

There seems to have been some uncertainty regarding the relationship existing between the green and brown forms of this pretty noctuid. A few years ago Mr. B. G. Thompson, then of Sacramento, California, sent me a number of full-fed larvæ of this species taken from an elderberry bush in his yard. From these larvæ I obtained sixteen adult moths in perfect condition. Of these, two or three were of a clear green, as many of a rich brown, the others were intermediate, showing all gradations between the two extremes. This shows that the variation of color in this species does not result from fading or chemical action, nor is it a case of dichromatism, but purely one of individual variation.—E. P. Van Duzee.